

Milton 3rd mo 3rd 1846
N.Y.

Dear Friend W. L. Garrison

It has been said and I think with great propriety that the "American Churches are the bull work of American Slavery" This to me appears perfectly consistent and natural that it should be so, seeing the foundation on which those Churches are built is the Plenary Inspiration of the Bible which taken as a whole, without any perversion of its genuine meaning, not only admits the holding of Slaves, but teaches us, that those wars of extermination and rapine carried on by Gods chosen people the Jews, was entered into and conducted through by the special interposition of God; Now admitting this state of things, to have existed by special command of God, by what mode of reasoning can we arrive at the conclusion, that God has become ^{now} more refined in his moral Nature, and consequently his present Government must partake more of a humane Character; admitting this will not only prove him to be a progressive Being but a Changeable God, hence the attribute of immutability will at once be destroyed. With me the conclusion is inevitable, if the Bible is an emanation from God and a perfect exponent of his moral Government, the American Churches and all other Churches whose foundation rest on the Plenary inspiration of the Bible, are perfectly justifiable ^{in advocating the right of} in holding their fellow man, in Slavery; and not only so, ^{but} war of almost every grade, Capital punishment, and a flood of other evils with which this, [otherwise happy] world is afflicted. I say, Friend Garrison, with me, this conclusion is inevitable, upon the principle that God is unchangeable, and all moral as well as all scientific principles are immutable; hence it must be a truism, what was morally right in the days of Moses and Joshua, is equally right now. I will give one quotation from the New Testament which is in perfect agreement with the view I have here taken - Matthew chp 19th or 8th He (Jesus) saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives; but from the beginning it was not so.

There is no difficulty in my mind, coming to the conclusion, that God had nothing to do in giving or administering this law, but it was purely a law of Moses, founded on human policy; the hardness of these laws, was assigned as a reason. But from the beginning it was not so. That is it never originated with God or goodness which was from the beginning and unchangeable in its nature —

~~Again~~, to me this is positive proof, that is, as far as New Testament authority goes, Moses gave to the Jews a law, independent of authority from God; and if he gave them one law, independent of Divine authority, why may we not safely infer that all the laws by which the Jewish Nation was governed, originated from the same source in as much as those laws were in the general repugnant to every principle of morality and religion taught by Jesus in the New Testament. Now it seems to me supremely ridiculous to believe or assert that, these two codes of law originated from one and the same source, in as much as one taught an "eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" and the other "I say unto you ^{that ye} resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek turn to him the other also."

To remove this difficulty, which ^{stands} as an impregnable Bull work to every advance, in moral and Physical improvement of our day we must, lay the axe to the root of this corrupt Church, which has for its foundation the Plenary inspiration of the Bible; which ^{lay this away} has nothing but a blind tradition, instead of internal or external evidence to predicate such a belief upon. It would be particularly gratifying ^{to me} if some one of those bright & shining lights of the East, to take up this subject and show conclusively that the Bible has no more claim to Divine inspiration than any other Ancient History has; when this fact is once established; there will be no more reference to the bible as a justifiable testimony in favour of Slavery War or Capital punishment. This it does explicitly teach ^{and that too, in my opinion, without any possession of the Bible} — perhaps more particularly war, as is conclusively shown, in an article taken from the Boston Investigator and published in the Liberator Feb 6th over the signature of Anti-Christian. The article alone referred to is well calculated to ^{help} remove the difficulty complained of, viz the "American Churches are the Bull work of American Slavery". When the Bible is ^{thus} brought ^{down} to its proper standard a mere history of passing events, we will read it and judge of it as we do other histories

and ^{seen in} when this light it will be more usefull than it ever has yet been
I am for Truth, and no Table N. Hallorik

P.S. If my Friend Garrison ^{should} think the foregoing has any merit that
would warrant its publication either as a whole or in part it is at his
service to dispose of it, as he may think proper and he may be assured
I shall not be offended if it is doomed to share the fate of the rubbish of an
Editorial Office, As I am very sensible it would require much correction
before it would be fit for an insertion in the Liberator, which correction
would have been made had I been adequate to the task

When in New York last fall I handed to a friend three
dollars two for the Liberator and one for the Practical Christian
neither of which has been heard from, Perhaps my friend J.T.H. has
made some omission in forwarding it, if you are not in possession of any
information on the subject, I will enquire of the friend I employed
Yours truly N.H.

Win Lloyd Garrison
25 Cornhill
Boston



PAID

